

ST. LOUIS STRUGGLE OVER SUNDAY LAWS

Post-Dispatch Bitterly Resists Strict Enforcement of Statutes.

Says They Are Religious Measures Upheld on Secular Grounds.

Washington is not the only city in the country that is stirred up over a discussion upon the question of Sunday laws, nor is New York the only metropolis fearful of the closing of the lid. St. Louis just now is in the throes of a war between the hosts of those who believe in stringent Sunday legislation, and those whose inclinations and convictions are for a minimum of such.

The Post-Dispatch, of St. Louis, expresses the views of the latter in an editorial in a recent issue. It says:

As the Courts See It.

"In taking notice of the flaming zeal which everywhere accompanies Sunday law enforcement, it should be remembered that, notwithstanding the pious inspiration of Sabbatarianism, the courts have held almost without exception that legislation of this kind can be sustained only on secular grounds. To advance religious belief as a reason for Sunday blue laws would be to nullify them.

"We have the strange spectacle, therefore, of religious laws enacted and enforced at the demand of religionists, and upheld by courts which deny that they are religious laws, and assert that they are nothing more than police and health measures.

"This is a situation calling for a little common honesty and for some genuine American backbone. If the laws are to be enforced in obedience to a religious demand and for religious purposes, they should be carefully revised by the law-making powers, for it is probable that the best religious sentiment today is not reflected in these fantastic enactments.

Fate of Blue Laws.

"It may be doubted if a convention of any church would renege the old Sunday code in its entirety. When we consider that most people are attached to no church, and that many churches are liberal in the matter of Sunday diversions, it will be seen that any revision of these laws would probably result in expunging nine-tenths of them from the statute books.

"Religious laws having no standing in court except on the false pretense that they are secular in purpose ought to be easily repealed. When they were first enacted in this country they had the weight of the church, of wealth, of nine-tenths of the population and of practically all respectability behind them. It is not so now. Compelling their rigid execution at this time, a few zealots are simply invoking the authority of sanctimonious lawgivers dead and gone for the regulation of people of different beliefs, different tastes and different necessities.

Assaults on the Laws.

"We are to remember also that true American liberty had some of its most important beginnings in successful assaults upon these very laws. It was not until the people had learned to question the despotic powers of the New England theocracy and the State Church of Virginia that they ventured to assail the awful pretensions of George III, who ruled by divine right. Sam Adams in Massachusetts and Thomas Jefferson in Virginia were hounded to their graves by the element which supported the blue laws.

"These men and others almost as celebrated held that emancipation from ecclesiastical authority was essential to liberty. What would they have thought of \$6,000,000 of people subjected to religious laws which gained their force by judicial denials of the self-evident fact that they are religious laws?

Curtailment of Liberty.

"It is maintained in some quarters, and with reason, that repeated invasions of popular rights during the last thirty or forty years have resulted in a serious curtailment of liberty. If reasonable and harmless diversion on Sunday may now be prohibited by a small religious element, backed by a notorious false pretense in the courts, it must be that there has also been a most emphatic loss of independence on the part of the people. The worst of all slaves are those who willingly bend to the yoke.

"Many important questions are pressing for settlement, but they all shrink into insignificance in comparison with this one, involving as it does the personal liberty of millions. Tariffs, trusts, currency, rebates and all such problems will hardly be dealt with wisely by men who are not free or by courts which are terrorized or insincere."

MAKES A SHAMBLES OF BANQUET BOARD

BOMBAY, India, Jan. 18.—The chief of the village of Sabang and twenty-six of his chief advisers have been massacred, according to news from the Chin Hills, for attempting to force a neighboring town to pay tribute to them.

The chief appears to have been attempting for some time to enforce claims of a kind of sovereignty over the town where he met his death, and was finally invited there, with his followers, to a banquet at which the matter was to have been discussed. They were slain as they sat at the table.

The local police are investigating.

AUTOMATIC STREET LIGHTER.

A new invention has been introduced in Newcastle, England, by which it is feared the lamplighters of the city will lose their vocation. A German inventor has placed a machine at the local gas works which will enable the gas company to light and extinguish all the

Combined Age, 13; Weight, 360; Texas Brothers Are Growing, Their Sisters Frail Girls



ERNEST AND WILLIE ASHCROFT.
Remarkable Texas Boys, Whose Parents Are of Ordinary Size.

Lone Star Giants at Tender Age Size of Ordinary Men.

HONEY GROVE, Tex., Jan. 18.—Two of the most remarkable boys in the world live on a farm near Lannus, in this county. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Ashcroft. The combined age of the two boys is thirteen years, and their combined weight is 360 pounds. The oldest boy is named William Dewey Ashcroft. He is nine years old and weighs 255 pounds. He is still taking on flesh at the rate of about twenty pounds each year. At his present rate of growth he will be a giant in height as well as in weight by the time he is of age. He is 5 feet and 2 inches tall. His waist measure is fifty-three inches. His body is well proportioned and he moves around without any noticeable inconvenience. If his growth continues during the next eleven years at the rate it has since his birth he will weigh in the neighborhood of 600 pounds by the time he is twenty-years of age.

Health Good.

His health is good, and it is claimed by physicians who have examined him that his chances for continued growth and development are as good as those of an ordinary boy. When this boy was born, in 1898, he weighed nine and one-half pounds. He took to growing right from the start, and when he was only one year old he weighed fifty-two pounds. He was as large as an ordinary man when only five years old, his weight at that time being 137 pounds. He gained sixty-four pounds during the next two years, his weight being 201 pounds the day that he was seven years old. This wonderful boy has had many of the ills that usually fall to the lot of children and grown people, but he

kept growing all the time. When he was only seven months old he had an abscess in the throat. He suffered a severe attack of pneumonia when he was two years old. He pulled through that sickness and quickly regained the weight that he had lost and had taken on a lot more by the time he was attacked with whooping cough, when two and one-half years old. He did not have another spell of sickness until he was six years old, when he was attacked with diphtheria. He recovered from that illness and still continued to get bigger and bigger until he was seven years old, when typhoid fever laid hold on him and kept him confined to his bed for a few weeks. He got over that sickness and was soon as fat as ever. He has not been sick since then, and his daily gain in weight continues without interruption.

His Little Brother.

The youngest of the two brothers is named Ernest Z. Ashcroft. He is also a physical phenomenon. He was born December 4, 1893, and weighed ten pounds at his birth. He weighed forty pounds when one year old and by the time he was three years old his weight had increased to seventy-six pounds. He weighed 165 pounds when four years old. He is three feet seven inches tall. His waist measure is 38 inches. This younger boy has had no serious spell of illness. He is the picture of health.

The most remarkable thing about the phenomenal sizes of these two boys is that their parents are of ordinary size. Their father is six feet tall and weighs 165 pounds, and their mother is five feet 10 inches tall and weighs 150 pounds. Mr. and Mrs. Ashcroft have five other children, all girls, and none of them show any signs of unusual physical growth or development. On the contrary, the girls are delicate and unusually light of weight for their ages.

"UNCLE JOE" INJURES BOOM BY OPPOSING THE "FARMERS"

Speaker Puts Foot Down on Bill for Agricultural High Schools and Thereby Stirs Up a Hornets' Nest.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon has put his foot down on the bill to establish agricultural high schools and has stirred up a hornets' nest. The results of the stirring are likely to be that the Speaker's Presidential boom will get badly stung in those States that are particularly interested in the spread of agricultural education.

Representative Davis of Minnesota is the author of the bill in question. It is intended to provide appropriations for agricultural high schools and branch agricultural experiment stations and also to give Federal aid to industrial education in the city high schools.

The Department of Agriculture is interested in the bill and anxious to see it passed. Assistant Secretary Hays of the Department of Agriculture, visited a number of States last summer in the interest of the bill, his purpose being to perfect it so it would operate satisfactorily in the various sections of the country.

President Roosevelt is favorable to the legislation. It is one of his favorite ideas that the boys and girls in the country should be given such education as will encourage them to remain on the farm and that the boys and girls in the cities should have the best opportunities for industrial education.

Davis Maddest of All.

There are plenty of men in Congress who are mad at the Speaker, not personally, but at the czar-like authority he wields. But it is declared Davis of Minnesota is just now the maddest one of all. He was on the Committee on Agriculture last Congress. He wanted to stay on the same committee this Congress. His bill for Federal aid to agricultural high schools comes before this committee.

When Mr. Davis scanned the list of committee assignments this session he found the Speaker had lifted him bodily off the Committee on Agriculture. Worse still, he has discerned a good many signs that the Speaker is not friendly to his bill and that the Committee on

Agriculture in the House is inclined against it and unlikely to make a favorable report on it.

In short, Representative Davis and other friends of the bill have about come to the conclusion that the bill is doomed; that "its eyes are sore." The news has traveled to Minnesota, where there is strong sentiment for the bill, and things are happening to "Uncle Joe" as a Presidential candidate that are not conducive to a solid Cannon delegation from the Gopher State. Public prints are giving the Speaker a vigorous lambasting, greatly, of course, to the sorrow and anguish of Representative Davis, while the Taft "stock up that way is going up a good many points.

Turn on Speaker Cannon.

Not only does Minnesota appear perturbed because the Speaker is charged with spurning the wishes of the folks out in the rural districts, but there has been widespread sentiment in other agricultural States for the bill, and this sentiment will be more or less turned on Speaker Cannon and his boom. Friends of the bill say they wouldn't so much mind it if a city-bred chap gave a cold shoulder to a bill for better agricultural education, but when it comes to "Uncle Joe," who was "raised" in the country and used to wear one gallus, turning against them it is too much.

REAL CLUES.

The French newspapers related the other day that Conan Doyle, the great "Sherlock Holmes" man, arrived at Paris from Marseilles and Lyons. The cabman who brought him from the station to the hotel addressed him by his name. Doyle was surprised, and asked how he knew. The cabman replied that he had read in his paper that the famous Conan Doyle would come to Marseilles and Lyons, and he had observed at once that the stranger's hair was cut by a Marseilles barber and that on the heel of his left shoe was dirt from Lyons. Doyle was highly satisfied to see that his "Sherlock Holmes" method proved so successful. The great detective mind then asked whether there was still another symptom. "Yes," said the cabman finally, "your full name is painted on your trunk."—Argonaut.

PRAETORIAN CAMP SAVED FOR ROME

Historic Relic of Old Empire to Be Preserved.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Some time ago it was proposed to pull down the old Praetorian Camp in Rome, which has witnessed so many centuries of history, the sale of the empire of the world by auction, the flight of Nero, and the preachings of St. Paul; this historic monument was to be consigned to a building society for the erection of "eligible dwellings" (electric light and water laid on, porter in livery, etc.). This catastrophe has happily been averted, but it is most earnestly to be hoped that the Praetorian Camp will not be sacrificed to some other base use.

Not that the gas company, which has so long been established in the Circus Maximus, is willing to be expropriated, and to transfer its gasometers to some more remote spot than the hollow between the Aventine and the Palatine. It is suggested that the great circus should be excavated and planted with shrubs.

Apart from the archaeological interest the view from the Palatine would thus be much improved, and the money which it is proposed to spend on a temporary reproduction of the Baths of Caracalla (more in place at Earl's Court than in Rome) could be better devoted to such an object of permanent interest and value.

TWO GREATEST CHARMS OF WOMEN ARE DEFINED BY COUNTESS LONYAY

PARIS, Jan. 18.—Marcel Prevost, who started the discussion: "What is more preferable in woman—beauty or elegance?" has received the following signed statement from Stephanie, the second daughter of Leopold of Belgium, Countess Lonyay, formerly the widow of the Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria-Hungary.

"Beauty and elegance are precious gifts of God, and the woman enjoying them should never cease thinking the Lord.

"Beauty and elegance know no home; they are restricted to no climate; rank or high birth have nothing to do with them.

"There is more beauty in the world than elegance. The woman combining both is indeed favored.

"One can acquire elegance no more than beauty. One must be born with both—must inherit them from Mother Nature.

"Beauty is the quintessence of harmony—something sublime. Its contemplation awakens the most pleasurable sentiments. A really beautiful woman is unforgettable. After years and years we speak of her with enthusiasm; the intoxication never wears off.

"More's the pity that beauty does not last, that increasing age, worry, disap-

pointments, sickness are liable to destroy it.

"Frequently the remains of a former beauty are still beautiful, like the reflex of a noble mind, of warm sentiments, of high intellect. I have known women of considerable age to retain their beauty to the last.

"Elegance, to me, is the height of loveliness, not the habit of wearing fine millinery of great jewels. Yet elegance depends to a certain extent upon good taste in selecting one's habiliments.

"I know women who dress superbly, yet are lacking in elegance.

"Real elegance is a something manifested in a woman's every action, in her every movement, in her speech and in the tone of her voice. Elegance depends upon noble sentiments. It shows luminously in the choice and range of conversation, in a woman's carriage and in her manner.

"Elegance never fails to impress. It is the child of a noble heart, the cradle of polite thoughts.

"Unlike beauty, elegance does not vanish with the years, because its roots go deeper.

"Once an elegant woman always an elegant woman."

A DANGEROUS QUESTION.

"Are you keeping a diary of your daily life?"

"Of my daily life! Good Great Scott, man! do you suppose I am giving it away?"—Exchange.

Kubelik Rivaied By Girl Violinist Found in London

LONDON, Jan. 18.—American music-lovers are soon to hear a wonderful girl violinist whose "discovery" was due to pure chance. This is Kathleen Parlow, a Canadian girl of seventeen, who a little while ago was living with her widowed mother in poor circumstances in London, but is now a star of the concert platform. Miss Parlow is engaged to play at 125 concerts in the United States, Canada, and South America at \$1,000 a concert.

Miss Parlow's marvelous playing was heard some time ago by a gentleman who happened to be passing the house in a London street where she was staying. Entranced by the exquisite music, the passerby, who knew something about violin-playing, stopped and listened for some time, and was convinced that he had discovered a new genius.

The listener mentioned his discovery to his friend, Dr. Grosz, a noted Berlin concert agent. The impresario always on the qui vive for fresh talent, determined to find out the mysterious violinist, and paid a detective \$50. to discover her name.

In three days Dr. Grosz had secured the name of Kathleen Parlow, and had sent for her to play to him. He immediately engaged her for a series of concerts in Berlin and Copenhagen, where she has been acclaimed as a player of genius. Her playing is considered to be even more brilliant than that of Kubelik and Marie Hall.

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